

Appl. No. : 10/748,729
Filed : December 29, 2003
Docket : EXCEL.016REC1

REMARKS

By this paper, Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-17, 25 and 40 without prejudice, amended Claims 18, 19, 20, 26, 29, 31, 32, 36 and 39 and has added new Claims 41-48. Hence, Claims 18-24, 26-39 and 41-48 are now pending in the application.

Non-Compliant Amendment

By this paper, Applicant has addressed all of the deficiencies cited in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated May 17, 2005. Applicant provides below its prior remarks (presented in the Response dated December 13, 2004) relating to the substantive Office Action dated August 13, 2004.

Objections under 37 CFR 1.172(a)

In response to Par. 1 of the Office Action, Applicant has previously submitted a Written Consent by Assignee for Reissue in compliance with 37 CFR 1.172 (see Applicant's transmittal dated December 13, 2004).

In response to Par. 2 of the Office Action, Applicant has previously submitted a new Establishment of Right of Assignee to Take Action and Revocation and Power of Attorney executed by Alan Benjamin, President of Excelsus Technologies, Inc., including (i) a complete chain of title establishing ownership of U.S. Patent No. 6,212,259 and the present reissue continuation application, and (ii) a statement indicating that Mr. Benjamin is empowered and authorized to act on behalf of Excelsus Technologies Inc., the current assignee. See Applicant's transmittal dated December 13, 2004.

Applicant submits that these documents overcome all of the Examiner's objections in this regard.

Objections under 37 CFR 1.175(a)(1) and(b)(1)

In response to Pars. 3, 4 and 5 of the Office Action, Applicant has previously resubmitted on December 13, 2004 (i) the Reissue Application Supplemental Declaration by Inventor, and (ii) Reissue Application Supplemental Declaration by the Assignee, both previously filed Sept. 11,

Appl. No. : 10/748,729
Filed : December 29, 2003
Docket : EXCEL.016REC1

2003, containing both the statement required under 37 CFR 1.175(a)(1) as to applicant's belief that the original patent is wholly or partly inoperative or invalid, and a description of the error(s) that are the basis for the reissue. Furthermore, this Supplemental Declaration states that these errors arose without any deceptive intent on the part of the Applicant. Specifically, the Examiner's attention is directed to the highlighted portions of the Reissue Application Supplemental Declaration by Inventor. Applicant believes these previously submitted documents completely satisfy all requirements set forth in 37 CFR 1.175(a)(1) and(b)(1), and therefore overcome the stated objections.

Surrender of Patent

Pursuant to Par. 6 of the Office Action, Applicant has previously provided a Written Consent by Assignee for Reissue document, which includes a statement by Assignee that it surrenders U.S. Patent No. 6,212,259 upon which the present reissue application is based. Applicant also previously surrendered the original patent grant for U.S. 6,212,259. See Applicant's transmittal dated December 13, 2004

Amendments to the Specification

Pursuant to Par. 7.C/ of the Office Action, Applicant has herein presented the prior amendments to the specification in the form specified by the Examiner. Applicant submits that the new text presented herein is fully in compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.173, and adds no new matter, and therefore overcomes the Examiner's objections.

Amendments to the Claims

Pursuant to Pars. 7.A/ and B/ of the Office Action, Applicant has herein presented the amendments to the Claims in the form specified by the Examiner. Applicant submits that the claims as presented above herein is fully in compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.173, and therefore overcomes the Examiner's objections. While Applicant has included the full text of original (issued) patent Claims 1-17 within brackets as explicitly requested by the Examiner,

Appl. No. : 10/748,729
Filed : December 29, 2003
Docket : EXCEL.016REC1

Applicant respectfully notes that this appears to be a misinterpretation of 37 C.F.R. 1.173 (Nov. 22, 2004 Revision), the relevant portion reproduced below:

"2) Claims. An amendment paper must include the entire text of each claim being changed by such amendment paper and of each claim being added by such amendment paper. For any claim changed by the amendment paper, a parenthetical expression "amended," "twice amended," etc., should follow the claim number. Each changed patent claim and each added claim must include markings pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section, except that a patent claim or added claim should be canceled by a statement canceling the claim without presentation of the text of the claim." {Emphasis added}

The foregoing passage indicates that cancellation of patent claims should be cancelled by a statement canceling the claim, and not by presenting the entire text of the claim.

For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant has further provided below a "redlined" set of claims clearly showing all amendments to the claims relative to the prior (preliminary) amendment submitted by Applicant dated December 29, 2003, including relevant status identifiers.

Applicant has accordingly herein made all possible good faith efforts to comply with the statute and the explicit instructions of the Examiner in presentation of its amendments.

Provisional Double Patenting Rejections

Applicant herein respectfully traverses the Examiner's provisional double patenting rejections with respect to co-owned and commonly invented (i.e., same "inventive entity") U.S. Application Serial Nos. 10/408,030 and 10/355,897 as cited by the Examiner in Par. 8 of the Office Action.

Specifically, Applicant traverses the Examiner's assertions that the subject matter claimed in the instant application (i) is disclosed in 10/355,897, and (ii) would be covered by any patent granted on one of these co-pending applications.

(i) Application No. 10/355,897 is a reissue application of a patent (6,181,777, filed as 09/370,137), which was a continuation in part (CIP) of U.S. 09/195,552 (now U.S. 6,188,750). The present application (10/748,729) is a reissue (continuation) of U.S. 6,212,259, which is a CIP

Appl. No. : 10/748,729
Filed : December 29, 2003
Docket : EXCEL.016REC1

of 09/370,137 filed on Aug. 9, 1999, which is, in turn, a continuation-in-part application based on application Ser. No. 09/195,522. Hence, the subject matter at issue in the instant application was no where present in U.S. 10/355,897; rather, the subject matter of the instant invention was added as part of the CIP filing. Hence, there is plain reason why the claims of the instant application could not be presented in 10/355,897 (or its corresponding 09/370,137); i.e., the subject matter of the present invention was not present in the specification of that prior application, and hence could not be claimed. See especially Figs. 15, 17 and 18 of the instant application (which are not present in the 09/370,137 or 10/355,897 applications).

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the Examiner's provisional patent rejection is *per se* erroneous.

(ii) As amended herein, Applicant's independent claims in the instant application are directed to two primary areas: (a) a telecommunications circuit having, *inter alia*, first through fourth stages, the fourth stage being specifically adapted to reduce return loss, and a suppression circuit (see, e.g., Claim 18); and (b) a telecommunications circuit having, *inter alia*, a capacitor and switch in series, and a suppression circuit adapted to suppress transients resulting at least in part from actuation of the switch (see, e.g., Claim 39).

In contrast, Applicant's claims as set forth in U.S. 10/408,030 (the parent hereto) are directed to (a) a filter circuit having, *inter alia*, a first switch and capacitor, and a second switch and second capacitor (see, e.g., Claim 18); (b) a filter circuit having, *inter alia*, first through fourth inductors, a transistor switch and first and second correction circuits (see, e.g., Claim 31); and so forth.

Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter claimed in the instant application is therefore not a variant of the subject matter claimed in 10/408,030, but rather a separate invention. The foregoing underscored elements, in combination with the other elements of their respective claims, are particularly directed to distinct aspects of Applicant's invention. For example, the embodiment of Fig. 15 (including its suppression circuit 74) is specifically included to address the problem of switching transients. This is a distinct feature from the four-stage construction having a fourth stage adapted to reduce return loss, which is a distinct feature from a

Appl. No. : **10/748,729**
Filed : **December 29, 2003**
Docket : **EXCEL.016REC1**

circuit having two sets of series switches and capacitors. Each claim presented in the two applications (i.e., the instant application and 10/408,030) present a distinct circuit which is fundamentally different from the others.

Hence, in sum, Applicant submits that (i) 10/355,897 is not properly a basis for a provisional double patenting rejection, and (ii) 10/408,030 defines inventions that are distinct with respect to the present application.

Applicant therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the provisional double patenting rejections.

Objections, and Rejections under 35 U.S.C. Section 112

By this paper, Applicant has cancelled Claim 25, thereby rendering the Examiner's rejections and objections of Pars. 9 and 10 of the Office Action moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. Section 102 and 103

Claims 36 and 39 - In response to the Examiner's rejection of independent Claim 36 under Section 102(b) over Gupta (U.S. 5,025,443), Applicant first notes that Claim 36 as previously presented included limitations relating to a switch. By the Examiner's own admission, Gupta does not teach a capacitor and switch (see, e.g., discussion of Claim 18 on page 8 of the Office Action {"...it should be noticed..."}). Hence, Applicant submits that Claim 36 as previously presented is not properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102, since all elements recited in the claim are not taught or inherent in a single reference.

Despite the foregoing, Applicant has herein amended Claim 36 to yet further distinguish over the art of record, including limitations relating to the recited suppression circuit being adapted to suppress voltage transients occurring within the filter circuit as the result of actuation of said switch during at least one of an on-hook to off-hook, or off-hook to on-hook, transient. Applicant respectfully submits that since Gupta in no way teaches or suggests a switch, it cannot reasonably be relied upon to teach or suggest suppression of transients created by actuation of said switch. Phrased differently, a reference cannot be relied upon to teach an effect resulting from operation of a component nowhere taught in that reference.

Appl. No. : 10/748,729
Filed : December 29, 2003
Docket : EXCEL.016REC1

Similarly, Applicant can find no mention of suppression of transients resulting from actuation of the switch described in Williamson, et al (U.S. 6,477,249). Hence, since neither Gupta nor Williamson teach or fairly suggest such functionality, the combination of these references cannot as a matter of law be used to render Applicant's amended Claim 36 obvious.

Since Claims 37 and 38 depend on Claim 36, these claims cannot be considered anticipated or obvious either.

Similarly, Claim 39 has been amended to include limitations relating to switch actuation as discussed above.

Claim 29 – Claim 29 has been amended herein to include limitations relating to a suppression circuit. For reasons similar to those discussed with respect to Claim 36 above, Applicant submits that Claim 29 as amended is non-obvious over Gupta and Williamson, and hence in condition for allowance.

Claim 18 – By this paper Applicant has amended Claim 18 to include limitations relating to the presence of a fourth filter stage specifically adapted to reduce return loss. Applicant notes that while Gupta is cognizant of the need to address return loss (per Col. 18, lines 45-55 as cited by the Examiner), Gupta in now way teaches or suggests any specific structure (other than the circuit as a whole) to do so. Gupta merely states:

"The return loss, which is a measure of the imperfection in the impedance termination, is a function of frequency. At the low and high frequencies, singing return loss must not be greater than 10 db at the mid-frequencies and echo return loss must not be greater than 18 db. Computer optimization, together with the constraint of practical component values, have gone into generating the values of the components described above. These component values result in singing return losses at low and high frequencies, to exceed 20 db, while echo return loss exceeds 26 db."

Hence, Gupta merely teaches using a computer optimization process to select the values of the circuit of Fig. 11 as a whole (i.e., considered in light of one another and operating as a whole) to

Appl. No. : **10/748,729**
Filed : **December 29, 2003**
Docket : **EXCEL.016REC1**

produce desired return loss characteristics. No teaching of a particular stage or portion of the circuit specifically adapted to address return loss is present.

Contrast this with Applicant's invention recited in Claim 18, wherein a fourth stage is particularly added and configured to address return loss.

Regarding Claim 19, the difference between Gupta and Applicant's invention becomes yet clearer, wherein the placement of the aforementioned fourth stage within the circuit is described, such placement being specifically chosen to provide the desired characteristics, such placement being different than that taught by Gupta (i.e., any of the circuits within the metallic LPF 710 of Gupta) are separated from the output terminals by inductors L5A and L5B.

Regarding Claim 20, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner takes much creative license in calling R1/R2/T1/C12 of Gupta a "tank circuit". As is well known, a tank circuit comprises an inductive element in electrical parallel with a capacitive element (and optionally a resistive element). See, e.g., as one of many such references:

"The tank circuit, a common building block in electronic systems, is a parallel resonant circuit comprised of an inductor, a capacitor, and an optional resistor."
{Emphasis added} <http://www.rfmd.com/databooks/db97/an0003.pdf>

The aforesaid elements of Fig. 11 of Gupta appear to Applicant to (i) be primarily in a series relationship (see C12 in series with both secondary coils of transformer T1), and (ii) coupled only via inductive rather than electrical means (i.e., R1 and R2 are not in the same electrical circuit or electron pathway as C12 and the secondary coils of T1). Applicant therefore submits that Gupta does not teach a tank circuit comprising the aforesaid elements.

Summary

Based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and all objections have been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner pass this case to issuance at the earliest opportunity.

Appl. No. : **10/748,729**
Filed : **December 29, 2003**
Docket : **EXCEL.016REC1**

Other Remarks

Applicant hereby specifically reserves the right to prosecute claims of different scope in another continuation or divisional application.

Applicant notes that any cancellations or additions made herein are made solely for the purposes of more clearly and particularly describing and claiming the invention, and not for purposes of overcoming art or for patentability. The Examiner should infer no (i) adoption of a position with respect to patentability, (ii) change or narrowing in the Applicant's position with respect to any claim or subject matter of the invention, or (iii) acquiescence in any way to any position taken by the Examiner, based on such cancellations or additions.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments which may be resolved over the telephone, he is requested to call the undersigned at (858) 675-1670.

Respectfully submitted,

GAZDZINSKI & ASSOCIATES

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